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SAURDAY, APRIL 1, 1916.

## A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year.

By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written daily  
for The Washington Herald.

### APRIL FOOLS.

'Tisn't harmful as a rule  
To appear an April Fool,  
For the April Fool at best  
Is a jolly sort of jest—  
Sort of merry make-believe  
Calculated to deceive,  
And beneath a foolish guise  
Hide a spirit truly wise.

At least the name of the League to Enforce  
Peace, which meets here next month, has a milit-  
ant sound.

Cupid having laid siege to the White House  
early in the administration seems to have laid  
Mars low and captured almost the entire garrison  
with his honeyed darts.

And while the spring poets sing let them re-  
member that it compels the hapless bowlegged  
man to discard the friendly disguise that has  
shielded him from unsympathetic eyes all winter.

Representative Sherwood has discovered that  
Col. Roosevelt's guacharo or "little devil" was  
slaughtered 116 years ago. Still it will hardly be  
contended that was really discovered until Col.  
Roosevelt had seen it.

The Senate easily mustered a full team to  
engage in the sport of kicking Standard Oil  
around, but no opponents showed up. The pros-  
pect of 50-cent gasoline makes even political  
battles kin.

That "bad little man from Egypt" after putting  
the idea of murder into his New York friend's  
head must also be given credit for suggesting a  
few cunning tricks for getting him out of the  
hole, though possibly those were the poisoner's  
own ideas.

A pacifist who interrupted Gen. Leonard  
Wood's address on preparedness in New York  
was ejected from the hall. The experience should  
teach him that the first requirement of the role  
of pacifist is quiet respectfulness under all cir-  
cumstances.

A New York man, suing for divorce, complains  
that his wife bought fifty pairs of silk stockings  
and thirty-five pairs of shoes at one time. An  
optimist would simply congratulate himself on  
having been saved the price of fifteen pairs of  
shoes.

Increases in the prices of various supplies for  
the government, ranging from 10 to 1,000 per cent,  
are astounding the members of the committee on  
proposals. Increases in the price of supplies for  
the household have been driving the government  
clerks frantic for years, but Uncle Sam has never  
thought of that.

A fellow accused by his wife of taking a "co-  
caine cocktail" before breakfast retorts that he  
was so worn out by his wife waking him up in  
the middle of the night to talk about getting a  
divorce that he was obliged to resort to drugs.  
Still it is not apparent why he took the drugs  
himself.

Inactivity and lack of exercise will never re-  
sult in Villa's undoing so long as the typewriters  
and telegraph instruments keep going. Thursday  
was rather a dull day for the bandit though he  
did capture a garrison and put 172 persons to  
death, besides being severely wounded and choked  
almost to death himself.

The Pennsylvania railroad has changed the  
name of the car in which travelers are fed from  
dining car to restaurant car, giving as the reason  
that breakfast and luncheon as well as dinner is  
served therein. And come to think of it, the car  
never dines, either; also, how about giving the  
waiters another name?

Senator Underwood declared in the Senate that  
the du Pont Powder Company and its agents are  
endeavoring to defeat his bill providing for the  
establishment of a government plant for the col-  
lection of nitrogen from the air; and no doubt if  
Mr. Underwood will look far enough he will  
discover that those who are striving for the pas-  
sage of his bill are more than a match for the  
powder company.

More possibilities of our public school system  
are disclosed by Prof. Ward, the community forum  
man. Through it, he says, we shall "produce the  
American art, the true folk art, folk music, folk  
drama, folk dance, the pageantry of this world's  
melting pot, which can never be attained until  
we learn to know each other and like each other  
as 'folks.'" Of course if we hadn't been a sturdy  
race we never could have managed to get along  
all this time without that "pageantry of the  
world's melting pot."

## We Are Still a Nation.

Apathy in Congress with regard to the plight  
of our soldiers in Mexico and its lack of intelli-  
gent interest in preparedness, together with the  
"casual attitude of the public toward the repeated  
disregard of our protests and of international law  
by Germany," are conditions which lead Mr.  
Theodore H. Price to wonder "whether the people  
of the United States can any longer be regarded  
as a nation." He does not blame the Presi-  
dent or Congress for the decadence of the na-  
tional spirit; he blames the people. To give  
sombre color to his pessimism he cites the fact  
that the people today are thoroughly well in-  
formed of the details of all that is going on in  
the world and have abundant opportunities to  
express themselves individually or collectively to  
their elected servants who are "acutely respon-  
sive to the demands of their constituents." Thus  
he argues that apathy in Congress merely reflects  
the indifference of the people to their honor and  
their rights as a nation.

It is safe to assert that comparatively few  
Americans will admit that Mr. Price's picture is  
faithfully drawn. Nor is it difficult to discover  
at least a partial explanation for the conditions  
described. There can be little doubt that Mr.  
Bryan and his few blind and misguided but noisy  
followers are largely responsible for the reluctance  
displayed by too many members of Congress to  
support the administration's military program,  
though there are indications that they are regain-  
ing their senses and that before the session ends  
a long step will have been taken in the direction  
of preparedness. As for the needs of Gen. Per-  
shing's army in Mexico, it must be said for Con-  
gress that it has been prompt in providing every-  
thing for which the administration has asked; the  
surprise is that more extensive preparations for  
the possibilities of the future have not been  
deemed imperative. For these shortcomings the  
people cannot justly be blamed. Without a doubt  
public sentiment is almost unanimously in favor  
of protecting Pershing's army to the limit of its  
possible requirements, and it may well be be-  
lieved that it would heartily support a policy of  
adequate though not hysterical or extravagant  
preparedness. What Mr. Price regards as the  
"casual attitude of the public" toward the long  
series of German atrocities of which Americans  
have been the victims we do not believe exists  
to any great extent. It may much more readily  
be believed that the people are heart sick and  
hopeless as the result of threats that have meant  
nothing, and endless negotiations that have pro-  
duced pledges, every one of which has been  
broken by fresh outrages against our citizens. It  
is inconceivable that the staggering effect of the  
crime of the Lusitania has passed away; the  
people have merely wearied of giving outward  
expression to their impotent indignation.

What is apparently the principal object sought  
by Mr. Price in his article in Commerce and  
Finance, in which his pessimistic view is ex-  
pressed, supplies almost a complete refutation of  
his theory that Congress today is doing the will  
of the people, that it reflects their desires and  
sentiments. For he appeals earnestly to every  
one of the millions of voters to write a letter  
to his Senator and Representatives and "tell them  
what he thinks ought to be done." Mr. Price  
knows that the vast majority of sound-thinking  
Americans do not write letters to Congress or  
loudly proclaim their views in public. This great  
majority of voters, who study important national  
issues and discuss them quietly among themselves  
do not take the world or the members of Con-  
gress into their confidence; little is heard from  
them until election day. Their attitude toward  
the nation's wrongs is not to be regarded as  
"casual," even though Mr. Price's appeal to them  
is not widely effective. They are not the pacifists  
who are heard from loudly and frequently; they  
are the American people and they may be de-  
pendent upon to give emphatic answer to the  
question whether they can any longer be regard-  
ed as a nation.

## A Mysterious Cable Dispatch.

A cable dispatch from London states that Brit-  
ish officials are "much impressed by the high  
percentage of German successes against British  
vessels en route to and from America, all of  
which, in accordance with the wishes of the  
American government, are unarmed." The opin-  
ion is expressed in the British capital that the  
Englishman, the Manchester Guardian and other  
vessels probably would have escaped destruction  
if they had been equipped with defensive armament.  
The dispatch is calculated to mystify the  
people of this country, where there has been no  
public announcement of any modification by the  
Washington government of the specifications  
which it announced in two formal communications  
to the Berlin government it would recognize as  
constituting the defensive armament of a merchant  
vessel.

If it is true, as stated in the London dispatch,  
that merchant ships with Americans on board are  
sailing from our ports without a single defense  
gun, then it is no wonder that they have fallen  
easy prey to the submarines lying in wait for  
helpless craft of all nations, while taking care  
to shun those defensively armed vessels which were  
to be sunk without warning after March 1.

It is possible, of course, though scarcely con-  
ceivable, that this government has required a  
certain class of merchantmen to discard their de-  
fense guns. If this is the case the recent dastard-  
ly attacks, in which Americans were sufferers,  
have furnished sufficient evidence of the gravity  
of the mistake that has been made. What has  
happened to the Englishman and the Manchester  
Guardian indicates plainly what would be the  
fate of any of the great passenger liners re-  
duced to a similar condition of helplessness. Ger-  
man submarines have amply justified this govern-  
ment in not only permitting but requiring every  
merchant ship of belligerent or neutral nations—  
more especially those with Americans on board—  
plying between our own and European ports, to  
be armed for defense to the extreme limit recog-  
nized by international law and custom.

## Prison Ghosts.

By JOHN D. BARRY.

Several times during my wanderings in a great  
prison recently, I had a curious feeling that the  
place was peopled with ghosts. Surely the many  
thousands of prisoners who had spent years of  
anguish there and departed must have left some-  
thing of themselves behind. Often their thoughts,  
perhaps their souls, must have returned to these  
scenes.

And yet, I knew that once out of the confines  
of the prison, many prisoners acted as if they had  
not known the place. Even with the friends they  
had made there and with those of the officials  
who had been particularly kind to them, they  
never communicated again.

For such seeming ingratitude can one really  
blame them?

On the other hand, there were those who,  
after going out into the world, still retained the  
sense of comradeship. Perhaps they were the  
wisest. Perhaps in their frank acceptance of their  
prison experience as a part of their life, a part  
they could never get away from, but must recon-  
cile themselves to, they showed wisdom. For the  
things that we hide in our consciousness are the  
things that in the end nearly always cause us the  
greatest harm.

Occasionally, I was told, a prisoner after  
serving his term would devote a large part of  
his time to helping other prisoners.

Surely this kind of prisoner might be said to  
triumph over his punishment.

Then there were the memories that must  
haunt that place, memories of the causes that led  
to the presence of the men here, and back of  
these causes, those other far-reaching causes  
which prepared the way. Some of these causes  
reached back to the sins of the fathers and of  
the fathers' fathers to be visited on the children  
in the form of criminal instincts to be punished  
by society. In such cases where could justice  
be? In some instances the men could not re-  
member the circumstances associated with their  
crimes. These crimes were committed when  
they were insane with drink or with drugs. In  
some other instances, however, there was not  
only deliberate intention to do wrong, but the  
willful persistence in wrongdoing after re-  
peated warnings. These included the egotists  
in crime, the men who thought of themselves  
alone, who were bent on self-gratification, who  
took a kind of pride in their power to secure  
advantage over others. Theirs must have been  
the greatest humiliation, measured by the length  
of their fall.

And there were still other ghosts, a vast mul-  
titude, the ghosts of the women for whose sake  
men had been led into crime. I wondered if  
they ever blamed themselves, if they ever sus-  
pected that they, too, belong in prison perhaps  
by a greater right than many of the men they  
had led into crime.

Then there were the ghosts of those who, far  
away perhaps, were in the prison in spirit, suf-  
fering with the prisoners, perhaps, in some  
cases, with an even greater intensity, those who  
loved the imprisoned men, the fathers and  
mothers, the sweethearts and wives, the brothers  
and the sisters.

And for the prisoners themselves the thought  
of those sufferers must have caused some of the  
cruellest torture. Even in the comfort that  
came from their visits there must have been pain.

I heard of several cases where men refused to  
allow certain of their relatives to visit them.  
Often fathers, serving long terms, would deny  
themselves the comfort of seeing their children  
so that the children might be spared the memory  
of such interviews. In many cases the relatives  
and friends were far away. And here, too, was  
some consolation. And in other cases the men  
were hiding under assumed names so that those  
dear to them should not know. They preferred  
to disappear from the world for years, or per-  
haps for the rest of their lives, rather than  
reveal their shame.

Most startling of all were the ghosts of those  
who helped to make and to sustain the condi-  
tions in the world outside that encouraged the  
strong to prey on the weak.

We are all over there, you and I. And we  
are in the prisons scattered over the world.

Shall we ever realize that we are there?

And realizing, shall we ever have the initiative  
and the courage and the patience to work to-  
gether to create conditions that shall make  
prisons impossible?

Where the negroes mustered in largest  
numbers, as in South Carolina, where they  
outnumbered the whites, restriction  
was of course, pushed farthest, and the  
most thorough-going legal tutelage  
for the freedmen attempted.

Where their numbers were more man-  
ageable, where conditions were more fa-  
vorable, their freedom of movement and  
of occupation was less interfered with.

There was nothing unprecedented in  
such legislation, even where it went  
farthest.

The greater part of it was paralleled  
by statutes of labor and vagrancy still  
to be found on the statute books of sev-  
eral of the northern States.

But it was impossible it should stand  
in the same light. The labor and vag-  
rancy laws of Maine, Rhode Island, and  
Connecticut, which they most resem-  
bled, were uttered against a free ramp-  
ant and beggar here and there a runaway  
servant or apprentice, an occasional  
breach of duties regularly contracted for;  
while these new laws of the South were  
uttered against an entire race, but just  
now emancipated.

Whatever their justification, it was in-  
evitable that they should shock the sen-  
sibilities of the North and make new and  
bitter enemies for the South in Congress.

It was no ordinary time of action,  
when matters could be judged coolly  
and on their merits.

For the leaders of Congress it was un-  
palatable enough that the southern  
States should have legislatures at all,  
upon a plan made and executed without  
the consent of the North and make new  
legislatures should thus undo the work of  
emancipation seemed a thing intolerable.  
And the new legislation seemed to them  
utterly against all right.

It seemed to them merely an effort to  
substitute compulsory contracts of serv-  
ice and fixed rates of wages for the old  
rights of control and duties of sup-

port which custom had vouchsafed and  
assigned masters of slaves—a sort of in-  
voluntary servitude by judicial process  
and under the forms of contract.

This did not stop to consider the  
pressing necessity or the extraordi-  
nary circumstances which justified  
such legislation.

There were many theories held  
among them as to the legal powers  
and remaining rights of the southern  
States, but their purpose of mastery  
in the readjustment of southern af-  
fairs was not materially affected by  
point differing theories.

They in effect regarded the southern  
States as conquered provinces, and  
looked upon emancipation as the main  
fruit of conquest. To make that em-  
ancipation good was only to secure the  
conquest itself.

The negro had got a veritable apo-  
theosis in the minds of northern men  
by the processes of the war. Those  
who had sent their sons to the field  
of battle to die in order that he might  
be free could not regard him as the  
innocent victim of circumstances, a  
creature who needed only liberty to  
make him a man; could not regard  
any further attempt on the part of his  
one-time masters to restrain him as  
mere vindictive defiance.

They did not look into the facts;  
they let their sentiment and their  
sense of power dictate their thought  
and purpose.

Neither was it any part of the case,  
so far as they and their leaders in  
Congress were concerned, that the re-  
strictive legislation which they so bit-  
terly resented had been practically  
without effect, because virtually set  
aside by the action of the Freedmen's  
Bureau.

Monday: A Military Bureau.

Special Correspondent of The Washington Herald.

New York, March 31.—(Am. Lovell) was  
hissed at the poet's dinner last week at  
the Hotel Majestic. Amy is a rebel and  
she wanted to be hissed. To have the  
other poets hiss her would prove that  
she was different from them. So she  
asked them to hiss and they hissed her.

Hissing seems to be sort of a very  
new poem. Amy's followers say, "We  
will use consonants that chime more  
grandly than petty clinking of the old  
rhymed poems." So Amy sought to  
draw syllables to hissed more sweetly  
to her ears than the fat-headed applause  
that stupid poets might desire.

John Massfield, the great poet, together  
with Alfred Noyes and Edwin Mark-  
ham, met on the platform with  
the rebel poet when she announced all  
rhymers as hackneyed egotists without  
humor and without ideas. The other  
poets hissed and they were at her service.  
They gave the hisses as heartily as  
William Winter would give three cheers  
for Shakespeare.

James Murray, one of the bright young  
writers on the American, saw two aspir-  
ing figures of the Great White Way  
in front of the Claridge the other  
morning just before noon.

"Had any breakfast yet?" queried one  
invitingly.

"No," answered the other fervently,  
"and if I don't get some soon I'll die  
of thirst."

It takes genius to do the obvious. New  
York is planning to raise an army of a  
million bottled mosquitoes to fight the  
uncooked billions. Set a thief to catch  
a thief, fire to fight fire—that's the  
motto.

In the hazy dawn the other morning a  
newcomer, pushing a heavy wheelbarrow  
beauty, discovered an overturned  
limousine resting against the curb. The  
motto.

On the fifth of July, in the year  
1885, at ten o'clock in the morning,  
in the city of Boston, Benjamin Frank-  
lin Keith invented the Continuous  
Performance.

Keith started this life with the  
heaviest name in American History  
on his shoulders.

And he bore it well!

He possessed the same keen, uncon-  
querable sense as the man his mother  
named him after—and had a deal more  
humanity than Franklin, the First.

Also, Keith was an Artist, which St.  
Benjamin was not.

He was a citizen of Vaude-  
ville, that Elysium which stretches  
from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and  
there are not three other names in  
the annals of the American Stage that  
have had as beneficent an influence on  
the American Theater as Benjamin  
Franklin Keith.

I can remember the time (and so can  
you) when the children especially girls,  
were not permitted to go to theaters  
except with their parents or a grown-  
up escort.

The variety show particularly was  
an "unsafe" place.

But Keith changed all this.

From the first day he opened the  
doors of the old Gaiety Music in Bos-  
ton, he never tolerated an "unsafe"  
act to be affiliated with his name.

And the part I like about Keith is  
that he never attempted to make cap-  
ital of decency; he didn't advertise it.  
He just adhered to the principle  
quietly, and soon the country was  
flocking to his doors.

Keith was the man who made the-  
ater-going a habit.

And later, when the grown-ups saw  
so much innocent fun in a Keith  
show, it was but a step to sending the  
children under the afternoon stars.  
Keith purified the variety show; he  
did more—he "institutionalized" it!

Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske told the House  
Naval Committee Monday that in fighting strength  
the United States navy was about half as strong  
as the German navy; that the United States re-  
ceives a return of only 75 per cent on the money  
spent for naval purposes; that navy efficiency  
is made impossible because of the faulty organi-  
zation of the department, and that he resigned  
as aide of operations because the Secretary re-  
fused to accept the Fiske plan for reorganization.

There is nothing new in this testimony, for  
Admiral Fiske has said it before. There is nothing  
new, either, in the fact that many other highly  
competent navy officers flatly disagree  
with his opinions and reject his judgment.

The main point of interest about the Fiske  
testimony is that he discussed the navy and its  
administration with the utmost frankness; yet he  
is the man who is supposed to be "gagged" by  
a ruthless secretary. Hardly a day passes that  
Admiral Fiske or some of his friends fail to  
burst into passionate sobs over the iniquity of  
Secretary Daniels in keeping this great and good  
man from telling the American people about their  
navy; but he manages to do more and more  
the navy than all the other officers combined.

He may be gagged by an unsympathetic Sec-  
retary, but if he is, Col. Roosevelt is gagged, too.  
—New York World.

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in the city of Boston, Benjamin Frank-  
lin Keith invented the Continuous  
Performance.

Keith started this life with the  
heaviest name in American History  
on his shoulders.

And he bore it well!

He possessed the same keen, uncon-  
querable sense as the man his mother  
named him after—and had a deal more  
humanity than Franklin, the First.

Also, Keith was an Artist, which St.  
Benjamin was not.

He was a citizen of Vaude-  
ville, that Elysium which stretches  
from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and  
there are not three other names in  
the annals of the American Stage that  
have had as beneficent an influence on  
the American Theater as Benjamin  
Franklin Keith.

I can remember the time (and so can  
you) when the children especially girls,  
were not permitted to go to theaters  
except with their parents or a grown-  
up escort.

The variety show particularly was  
an "unsafe" place.

But Keith changed all this.

From the first day he opened the  
doors of the old Gaiety Music in Bos-  
ton, he never tolerated an "unsafe"  
act to be affiliated with his name.

And the part I like about Keith is  
that he never attempted to make cap-  
ital of decency; he didn't advertise it.  
He just adhered to the principle  
quietly, and soon the country was  
flocking to his doors.

Keith was the man who made the-  
ater-going a habit.

And later, when the grown-ups saw  
so much innocent fun in a Keith  
show, it was but a step to sending the  
children under the afternoon stars.  
Keith purified the variety show; he  
did more—he "institutionalized" it!

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THE COUNTRY—  
BY PRESIDENT  
A History of the American People  
WOODROW WILSON

THE DRIFT OF NORTHERN SENTIMENT.

Published by a special arrangement with the President through  
The McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

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Where the negroes mustered in largest  
numbers, as in South Carolina, where they  
outnumbered the whites, restriction  
was of course, pushed farthest, and the  
most thorough-going legal tutelage  
for the freedmen attempted.

Where their numbers were more man-  
ageable, where conditions were more fa-  
vorable, their freedom of movement and  
of occupation was less interfered with.

There was nothing unprecedented in  
such legislation, even where it went  
farthest.

The greater part of it was paralleled  
by statutes of labor and vagrancy still  
to be found on the statute books of sev-  
eral of the northern States.

But it was impossible it should stand  
in the same light. The labor and vag-  
rancy laws of Maine, Rhode Island, and  
Connecticut, which they most resem-  
bled, were uttered against a free ramp-  
ant and beggar here and there a runaway  
servant or apprentice, an occasional  
breach of duties regularly contracted for;  
while these new laws of the South were  
uttered against an entire race, but just  
now emancipated.

Whatever their justification, it was in-  
evitable that they should shock the sen-  
sibilities of the North and make new and  
bitter enemies for the South in Congress.

It was no ordinary time of action,  
when matters could be judged coolly  
and on their merits.

For the leaders of Congress it was un-  
palatable enough that the southern  
States should have legislatures at all,  
upon a plan made and executed without  
the consent of the North and make new  
legislatures should thus undo the work of  
emancipation seemed a thing intolerable.  
And the new legislation seemed to them  
utterly against all right.

It seemed to them merely an effort to  
substitute compulsory contracts of serv-  
ice and fixed rates of wages for the old  
rights of control and duties of sup-

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